

Carmel, NY – Congressman John Hall (NY-19) joined Hudson Valley seniors at the Monroe Senior Center in Monroe to celebrate the 75th Birthday of the Social Security Program.

More than 50 million Americans rely on Social Security's guaranteed benefits for retirement security or to make ends meet, put food on the table and stay in their homes.

"Our seniors depend on their monthly checks to help pay for groceries, medical care, and housing. Without this critical safety net, many of our nation's seniors would fall into poverty," said Rep. Hall. "I am committed to protecting Social Security, and will fight against those who want to dismantle it. Instead, we must do more to strengthen Social Security so that our nation's seniors can make ends meet."

The seniors at the Monroe Senior Center represent a small portion of the over 3 million New Yorkers that receive Social Security checks each month. To honor the special occasion, Congressman Hall presented a large birthday cake to the seniors in attendance.

"AARP is pleased to join Congressman Hall in recognizing this landmark moment and celebrating Social Security's remarkable success," stated Gail Dejmal, AARP NY Volunteer Congressional District Coordinator. "For 75 years, Social Security has been the bedrock of economic security for countless working Americans and their families."

Congressman Hall is cosponsoring the Seniors Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 5987), a bill that was recently introduced in the House. The legislation would provide an extra \$250 in relief to retirees and other Social Security recipients if it is determined there will be no cost of living adjustment COLA for 2011.

Congressman Hall strongly opposes all efforts to privatize Social Security which would divert trillions of dollars from the Social Security Trust Fund into private accounts and subject worker's basic retirement security to Wall Street's ups and downs.

In the wake of the current economic crisis, Social Security is more important than ever. Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, Social Security was created at a time when the American economy had crumbled and was struggling to recover. Pensions were almost non-existent, and a majority of seniors were unable to support themselves after retirement. Thanks to Social Security, millions of seniors today can live their lives with dignity and independence instead of poverty and despair.